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NEW YORK STATE LOCAL HISTORY
CITY RECORDS

PREPARED BY THE DIVISION OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

HISTORICAL ACCOUNT AND INVENTORY

OF

RECORDS OF THE CITY OF KINGSTON

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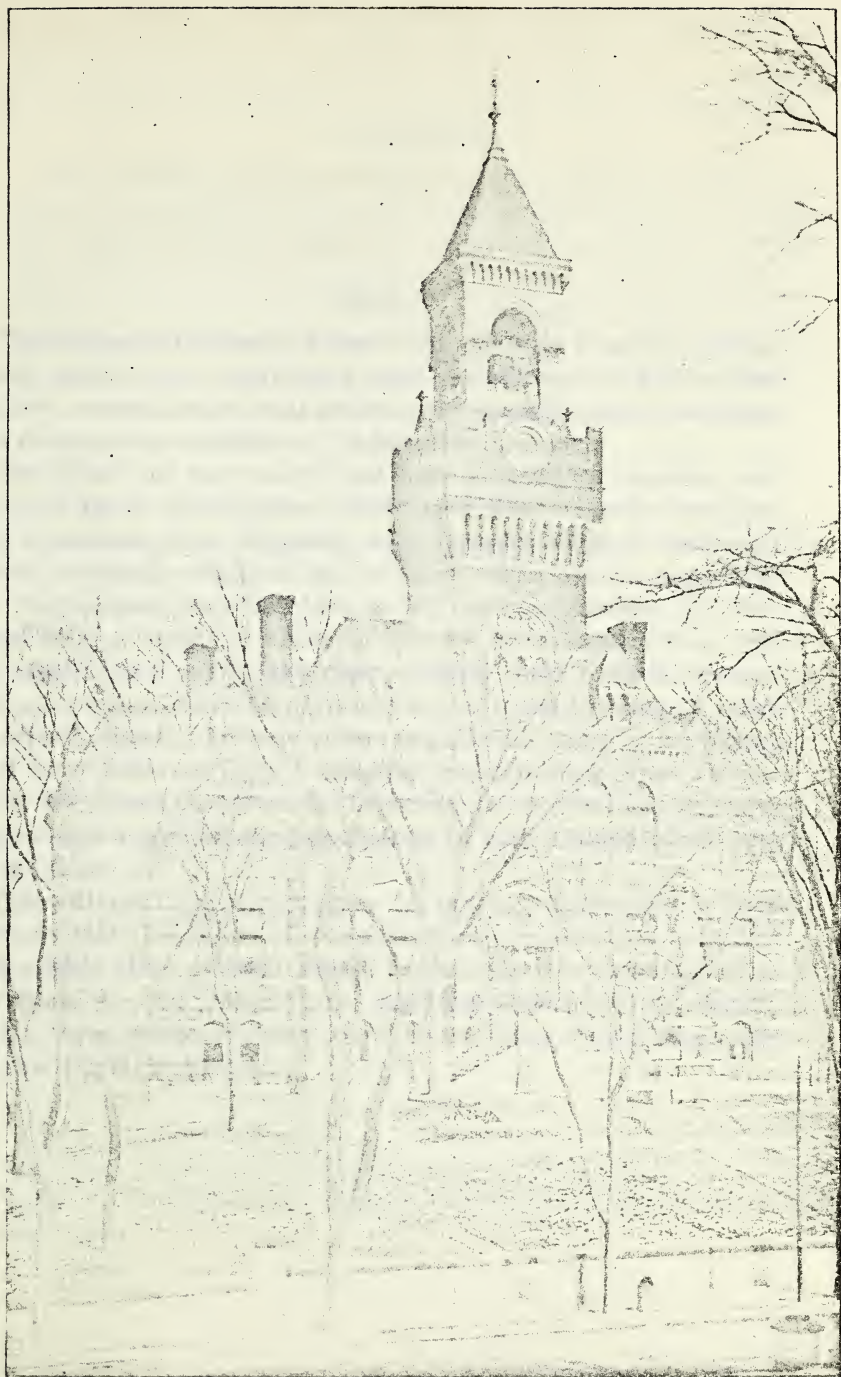
THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

1918

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CITY HALL OF KINGSTON. ERECTED IN 1873-74

NOTE

The history of the State of New York, whether from its political, social, industrial or institutional aspects, can never be well written until the records in our local archives are suitably housed, cataloged and made easily accessible to the historical student.

The history of our records has been a series of tragedies and few are those communities which have their records complete. The custodians have frequently been ignorant of their value and almost criminally negligent in their care. The boards responsible for their proper protection have failed to make provision for fire-proof safes or vaults in which the records could be preserved, with the result that many of the most valuable court records, minutes and other papers have been burned or destroyed by mice or mold, or actually stolen. If some of our neighboring states in New England have better and more complete histories than New York it is for the reason that from the beginning the people in those states have shown a zeal for the preservation of their records which puts us to shame.

It is with the hope of making up for our past deficiencies in these respects that this series of surveys of city records is undertaken and models given of what should be done by every community in the State for the proper care and classification of its records. Every town, village, city and county in our State should have made for it a similar inventory.

PREFACE

This bulletin presents the result of a survey of the records of the city of Kingston which was made by the Division of Archives and History in March 1918. It consists of an inventory preceded by an account of the origin, nature and extent of the records, which is based on a study of the historical development of the city government from the foundation of the city on May 31, 1658. The inventory is the fruit of personal visits to the record offices and has been made as complete as possible in the limited time available. It includes not only the records that are kept in the various departments of the city government, but also the records of the village of Wildwyck and the town of Kingston prior to the incorporation of the village of Kingston in 1805, which are preserved in the Ulster county clerk's office at Kingston.

The thanks of the Division are due to the Hon. Palmer Canfield, jr, mayor of Kingston, to Mr Christopher K. Loughran, county clerk of Ulster county, to Mr Frederick H. Doremus, city clerk of Kingston, and to the officials in charge of the records of the various city departments for valuable information furnished and courtesies extended during the preparation of the inventory.

The records of the city are unfortunately divided between the county clerk's office and the city hall. Though these places may be said to afford a fair degree of safety from fire, in both there is a great deal of congestion—a condition which needs immediate remedying. The city hall is an imposing structure and has various vaults for its records, but it is questionable whether the wooden trim, stairways and floors do not expose some of the most valuable municipal records in the State to an unnecessary risk. In other communities where equally imposing structures but similar fire risks were to be found the municipal authorities have deemed it advisable to have their city halls put in a thoroughly up-to-date and fireproof condition. It is to be hoped that the city of Kingston, taking pride in its history and records, will follow their example at an early date.

HISTORICAL ACCOUNT OF THE RECORDS OF THE CITY OF KINGSTON

The city of Kingston was chartered on March 29, 1872, and embraces the territory that was formerly included in the incorporated villages of Kingston and Rondout and the unincorporated village of Wilbur. By the terms of the charter the records of the villages of Kingston and Rondout became the property of the newly created city. These records begin respectively in 1805 and 1849. They are at present preserved in the vault in the city clerk's office and constitute the oldest records in the possession of the city. The history of Kingston as a municipality goes back, however, to May 16, 1661, when an inferior court of justice was established in what was then known as the village of Wildwyck. The records of this court and of the local governments which succeeded it until the incorporation of the village of Kingston by act of April 6, 1805, are deposited in the Ulster county clerk's office. They form, in spite of their present location, a distinct and, from the historical point of view, a most interesting part of the city records and are for that reason included in this inventory.

For the convenience of treatment, the early records of Kingston that are in the county clerk's office may be divided into two groups: (1) the records of the Dutch and English administrations prior to the establishment of a town government by patent of May 17, 1688; (2) the records of the town, or the corporation, of Kingston from May 16,⁷ 1688, until the organization of the village in 1805. The first group of records covers a period during which the settlement changed from Dutch to English, from English to Dutch and again from Dutch to English rule. Notwithstanding these changes and the corresponding alterations in the form of government, the records for the entire period form an almost unbroken series, as will be shown in the following account.

DUTCH AND ENGLISH RECORDS PRIOR TO THE INCORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF KINGSTON

1661-88

The region in which Kingston is situated was from an early date known as the Esopus. The first purchases of land from the Indians were made by Thomas Chambers and Christopher Davis in 1652 and 1653 and actual settlements were begun in 1654. On May 31, 1658, the inhabitants of the Esopus, on the advice of Director

General Stuyvesant, bound themselves to demolish their separate dwellings and to locate within a stockaded village on a site marked out for them by the director, in what is now the first ward of the city. No formal government was set up at the time, the management of public affairs being temporarily intrusted to the military commander of the garrison who was directly responsible to the director and council of New Netherland. In April 1660, at the request of the inhabitants, the directors of the Amsterdam Chamber of the Dutch West India Company consented to make the Esopus an independent jurisdiction. They appointed Roelof Swartwout schout and instructed Stuyvesant to organize a court. Stuyvesant at first refused to carry out his instructions, but on being censured for his refusal he determined the next year, during a visit to Esopus between April 26th and May 5th, to erect a court in the village, which was then named Wildwyck. The formal ordinance establishing this court was issued on May 16, 1661.

Like the contemporary Dutch local courts of first instance, this court at Wildwyck was composed of a schout and at first three and afterwards four schepens, of whom the schout represented the sovereign authority and was appointed for a term of years, while the schepens, at least in theory, represented the people and were renewed annually, their names being chosen by the director general and council from a double number presented by the inhabitants. As in all primitive forms of government, the court had administrative as well as judicial functions. When sitting as a court, the schout presided and demanded justice of the schepens, who, in that respect differing from a jury, not only found whether the accused was guilty, but also determined the penalty that should be imposed upon him. The execution of the judgment was intrusted to the schout, who thus combined the duties of a sheriff and of a public prosecutor and also acted as chief of police.

The minutes of the proceedings of this court for the first period of Dutch administration have been carefully preserved. They fill the first and part of the second volume of the Dutch records. The first entry is a copy of the agreement of May 31, 1658. Then follow a few blank pages and then the minutes of the court which began on July 12, 1661. The minutes until June 5, 1663, are in the handwriting of Roelof Swartwout, the schout of the court. After that date they were written by Mattheus Capito, who was appointed secretary of Wildwyck on June 14, 1663.

Under the Dutch system it was the duty of the secretary of the court to keep a record of all legal transactions and transfers of

real estate, the latter to be attested by two members of the court. At first no separate record of such transactions appears to have been kept, a few deeds and mortgages being entered in the court record. Beginning, however, from April 7, 1664, there is a separate record of contracts and agreements, bonds, wills, powers of attorney, deeds and mortgages, which was kept at first by Mattheus Capito and afterwards by Secretary Willem La Montagne. This record consists of five volumes, which are designated by the title of "Secretary's Papers," and which extend almost without interruption until January 7, 1681. They are of great value as a record of land titles and for that reason, doubtless, have at an early date been deposited in the Ulster county clerk's office.

The above-mentioned court minutes and the first volume of the secretary's papers include all the records of the village of Wildwyck covering the first Dutch period that appear to have been preserved. In a letter from the magistrates at Wildwyck to Director Stuyvesant, dated December 12, 1663, printed in *Documents Relative to the Colonial History of New York*, volume 13, page 317, reference is made to a "book no. 4 kept in Wiltwyck," which is said to be "closed," indicating, it seems, that reference is made to a volume of accounts, while in the court minutes, under date of October 21, 1664, occurs an entry ordering Roelof Swartwout, the retired schout, "immediately to deliver up all such account papers and documents relating to the village of Wildwyck, and, with the old commissaries, to report to the secretary, to make up the old accounts of the village." No such accounts are at present known to be in existence, nor are any specifically named in a list of records delivered on December 16, 1686, by John Ward, which is printed on pages 12-13 of this inventory.

Fortunately for the person seeking information regarding the early history of Esopus, there is a considerable body of correspondence between the local officials and Director Stuyvesant which throws light on the events that took place prior to 1665, especially during what is known as the First Esopus War with the Indians, which began on September 21, 1659, and ended on July 15, 1660, and the Second Esopus War, which lasted from June 7, 1663, to the treaty of peace of May 15, 1664. This correspondence is preserved among the papers of the Director General and Council of New Netherland in the New York State Library at Albany. It never at any time formed part of the official records of the village of Wildwyck and is for that reason not included in this inventory. Translations of most of the papers belonging to this correspondence

may be found in volume 13 of the *Documents Relative to the Colonial History of New York*, edited by Berthold Fernow and published by the State.

The province of New Netherland surrendered to the English on August 27, old style, or September 8, new style, 1664, and on the 25th of September following Col. George Cartwright, on his return from Albany, brought the village of Wildwyck under the authority of the Duke of York. As at Albany, practically no change was made in the administration of the village. The Dutch form of government was continued, Wilhelm Beeckman was retained as schout and Mattheus Capito remained secretary. The name of Wildwyck soon fell into disuse, the village being at first generally referred to as the "Towne of Esopus," and on the 25th of April 1669 officially styled "Kingston." In a document dated September 26, 1668, Governor Lovelace defined the boundaries of the "Dorp of Esopus" as follows: "the extremety of their land as to a N. W. lyne to be the utmost bounds on that lyne And then a Lyne drawne S. or S. & by East from the Sopus Kill in straight lyne to the Redoubt Kill to be the true boundearie of that Dorp on that side, & there to beginne the lymitts of the next Townne."

On September 9, 1669, Governor Lovelace appointed a commission to regulate the government at Esopus. The commissioners received their instructions on September 11th and held sessions at Esopus from the 17th to the 29th of that month. They appointed Thomas Chambers surveyor general of highways for Kingston and the two villages of Hurley and Marbletown, which had been laid out the preceding year, and made Henry Pawling "Officer over the Indians." They also ordered the schout and commissaries of Kingston to keep the highways belonging to that town passable; to appoint a person to measure corn and grain intended for exportation; to repair the "Domine's House or Town House in Kingston," it being "of absolute Necessity to keep that House in good repaire in regard of the frequent use of it both for Religious Dutyes and Civill Affayres;" and to take care that two men should constantly watch at the redoubt.

It is interesting to note that Christopher Beresford, who was made chief magistrate over Hurley and Marbletown, was instructed to govern by English laws, "which will speedily be sent to you," meaning evidently that a copy of the Duke's laws would be sent to him, but that nothing of the sort is said with regard to the court at Kingston, which apparently continued to administer justice according to Dutch law.

On March 24, 1669/70, instructions were issued to Capt. Dudley Lovelace, Jacques Cortilleau and the rest of the commissioners for the affairs at Esopus to lay out the bounds of Kingston, Hurley and Marbletown, which are described in the minutes of the proceedings of that body, printed on pages 291-304 of volume 1 of the *Minutes of the Executive Council of the Province of New York*, edited by V. H. Paltsits, State Historian. October 25, 1671, orders were issued for regulating the civil and military affairs at Esopus, which among other things provided:

3 That every Towne in y^e Administracon of Justice follow y^e Rules of y^e Lawes already sett forth, That is to say, That each Towne shall determine definitively all Actions under ffive pound according to y^e Lawes of Towneshippes.

4 That there shall bee a Co^{rt} of Sessions held each halfe yeare at Kingston, which shall determine all Actions whither Criminal or other (not extending to Death) & inflict punishm^{ts} according to the Meritt of y^e ffact, whither on Christians or Indyans; And for Matt^{rs} Civill as other Co^{rts} of Sessions doe here hold and Determine; wth this Provisoe That any party aggrievd may have like Liberty to Appeale to y^e Gen^{rl} Court of Assizes held at New Yorke.

5 The Persons that are to sitt at y^e Co^{rts} of Sessions shall bee Capt^t Chambers, Justice of y^e peace who is to p^rside as Presid^t y^e Schout of Kingston, & Elect Commissary, Capt^t Pawling for Marbleton, Albert Heymans for Hurley, & the Eldest Commissary at Kingston.

The commission for Thomas Chambers to be "Justice of ye Peace in all ye Townes at Esopus and Plantacons," is dated April 26, 1671, and provides "that his Commission doe not extend to ye taking away or diminishing the usual Authority & course of Judicature now in being administered in ye Towne of Kingston by ye Schout and Commissaryes there."

These orders and the commission to Chambers show the very gradual change from Dutch to English courts of law, a change which was made complete on June 12, 1673, when on a petition from the inhabitants of Esopus "to have the Privilege & Benefitt of Enjoyment of ye English Lawes Establisht by his Royall Highnesse & in practice almost throughout all his Territoryes," the Council ordered "that ye said Lawes shall bee settled & practized in ye Three Townes of Esopus as in other Places, for the wch they shall receive particular Instructions."

No sooner were these English laws introduced, than the province of New York came once more under Dutch control, Fort James, now New York, being surrendered to the Dutch on $\frac{30 \text{ July}}{9 \text{ Aug.}}$ 1673, and Esopus being reduced on the $\frac{5}{15}$ th August following. Gov-

ernor Anthony Colve immediately reestablished the Dutch form of government in Esopus, an order dated $\frac{22 \text{ Aug.}}{1 \text{ Sept.}}$ 1673, providing that

"The population of the three respective villages shall together nominate three persons for the office of Schout and three for that of Secretary from which we will then select one as Schout and another as Secretary for all these villages. The community of Swanenburgh shall further nominate eight persons for Commissioners of their village; Hurley and Marbletown which have heretofore been under the jurisdiction of one court, may continue so until further orders, but they shall also nominate and present to us eight persons, from whom we will make a selection."

Kingston, which was now named Swanenburg, continued under Dutch rule until November 10, 1674, when Governor Colve sent a letter to Isaac Grevenraedt, schout "in the village Swanenburg in the Esopus," directing him, pursuant to the treaty of peace concluded between Holland and England on the 19th of February, to deliver to Major Andros or his representative the jurisdiction of the places under his command.

In accordance with these instructions, Swanenburg was duly delivered to the English and once more named Kingston. January 11, 1675, Governor Edmund Andros wrote to the inhabitants of Hurley and Marbletown that he had "authorized Capt. Thomas Chambers as Justice and George Hall as Schout in your Towne, as well as Kingston." Misunderstanding arose between these officials as to their respective duties, whereupon the council on August 4, 1676, "Ordered, That Capt. Chambers and Mr Hall have notice, that the Sheriff is the person, who is to see the Law putt in Execucon and to apprehend & prosecute any Transgressors, as hee shall see cause, though not to be judge in the Case." In spite of this order, matters did not go along smoothly in Esopus for some years, a fact which accounts for the paucity of records for that period. March 9, 1681/2, Captain Anthony Brockholls wrote to Thomas De Lavall, chief magistrate at Esopus, about the "Continued Disordr Especially Amongst the Magistrates," and ordered that a court of sessions must be kept, the same as formerly. He also stated that he had lately received orders from his Royal Highness "for the Continuance of all Magistrates & Justices in their Severall Stations till further Order."

On November 1, 1683, an act was passed entitled "An Act to divide this province & dependences into shires and Countyes," in

which Ulster county is described as containing "the towns of Kingston, Hurly and Marbletowne, ffox hall & the new Pallz & all the Villages, neighbourhoods, and Christian habitacons on the West side of Hudsons River from the Murderers Creeke near the high Lands to the Sawyers Creeke." The same day another act was passed entitled "An Act to settle Courts of Justice," which provided:

1 That in every town in and throughout the province there shall be one court held monthly on the first Wednesday of every month for the trial of small causes and cases of debt and trespass to the value of forty shillings, to be tried by three persons commissioned for the purpose, without a jury.

2 That in every county of the province there shall be held and kept Courts of Sessions for criminal and civil cases, to be tried by the verdict of twelve men, the courts for Ulster county to be held the first Tuesday in March and the first Tuesday in September, at Kingston.

In compliance with this act the first court of sessions for Ulster county was held on March 4, 5 and 6, 1684, the minutes of which have been preserved. According to Schoonmaker's *History of Kingston*, however, another court of sessions was held on January 25, 1684, at which it was resolved that the magistrates of each town should take turns in attending the courts and that the magistrates for the several towns were to be appointed by the general court. This appointment of local officers by the general court seems to have been distasteful to the burghers of Kingston, with the result that on February 18, 1684, they petitioned Governor Thomas Dongan for the right to choose their own town officers. This petition met with an unfavorable reception. The petitioners were held to have committed a "riot," according to English law, and consequently were arrested and fined, but on September 6th, they admitted that they had been "ill advised," whereupon they were released and discharged from the obligation to pay the fines.

The inhabitants of Kingston, however, in their desire for independent local government were not to be denied and on May 19, 1687, they obtained from Governor Dongan a patent for a large tract of land, including the present towns of Saugerties, Ulster and Kingston and most of the town of Esopus. This patent was approved by the council on May 17, 1688, and recorded on the 19th of May following in volume 6 of Patents in the office of the secretary of the province.

The granting of this patent marks the beginning of a new period in the history of the administration of the locality, which will be treated in the following chapter. As shown in the preceding pages,

the original Dutch court was continued with slight modifications until 1684. From that time until the ratification of the patent in 1688, no records of the local court are found and it is doubtful whether any were ever kept. Of deeds, mortgages and various other legal instruments, an almost continuous record is found in the secretary's papers, extending from April 7, 1664, to January 7, 1681. Between the last-named date and 1684, when separate records according to the English system began to be kept in the county clerk's office, there is a gap. All records, as far as they existed on December 16, 1686, were deposited in the county clerk's office by John Ward, deputy clerk, according to the following list, which is entered on page 50 of Book AA of Deeds, 1684-1710, in the Ulster county clerk's office at Kingston.

A list of ye Bookes and records and publick peaprs as they were Delliuered by John ward this 16 Day of Decemb 1686 vizi

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| Records No A | } | Agremt of ye Esopas Indians |
| records No B | | with ye 6 sticks |
| Records No C | | A ffree Gifft frome All ye towns |
| of Kingstown | | to his onr ye Gouvernor |
| Records No D | | Agremtt wth Wm flishr & Cobas |
| Records No E | } | Eluendorop |
| Records No ff | | Agremt wth Wm Myrs & Hendrick Alberts |
| Concerning ye menistrs waiges | | Agremt of Johanas Claes and |
| No H | | Able Jureyance wth Hendrick |
| Predecoll or Records No G | | Albertson |
| Hurly & Marueill Court No J | | Agremt wth Pettr Lassin & ye |
| Records No K | | Jndeans |
| Records No L | | Agremt wth Jacob Ruttson & ye |
| Records No M | | Jndians |
| Conditions as it is bound togethr | | A gift of A Indian to Cornelis |
| No M | | Swits & Andries Dewitt |
| Records No O | | Cloodin paprs or book of ye Last |
| Records No P | | sessions from $\frac{r}{m}$ Montaney |
| Records Q | | Obligation of Wm ffrendin- |
| an Accot of ye towns Exsies R | | borch to $\frac{r}{m}$ Baltazard Byard |
| Records of Hurly S | | A Jndian Gifft to Gertruy Bruvn |
| Small Records T | | A gifft to Maghell De Motts |
| Small Records V | | Eldist soon by An Indian |

A book of ye sessions & other }
 bisness } kept by John ward No 2

A book of conditions No 1

A book of ye town Courts of Kingstown No 3

A book of ye town Courts of Hurly & Maruell No 4

ye book of Records No A in English

The majority of the records that are mentioned in the foregoing list are kept under lock and key in a wooden box in the county clerk's office. They are on the whole in a good state of preservation, but unbound, the original covers being torn off. The records have had a rather remarkable history. According to Judge A. T. Clearwater's introduction to Gustave Anjou's *Probate Records of Ulster County*, they disappeared from the county clerk's office about 60 years ago. Many efforts were made to find them. The grand jury instituted an investigation, the board of supervisors offered a liberal reward for their return, but nothing could be learned of their whereabouts, or by whom they had been taken. One day, during the summer of 1895, an express package was delivered to the office, which on examination proved to contain the long lost records, shipped by an unknown person from Quogue, N. Y. In explanation of their disappearance and return, a statement was made by Mr Van Alstyne, of Brooklyn, which is quoted by Mr Wheeler B. Melius in his introduction to the *Index to the Public Records of Albany County, 1630-1894*, and reprinted by Mr Samuel Oppenheim in the introduction to the revised translation of *The Dutch Records of Kingston*, published by the New York State Historical Association. According to this statement, the records were removed to Brooklyn for translation by a Dutch scholar who died before he began the work. After his death, the records were sent to the old city hall at Brooklyn, where a number of years later, at the time of the removal of the books and papers to the new city hall, they were brought to the attention of Mr Van Alstyne, one of the commissioners having charge of building the new city hall, who recognized them and caused them to be returned to the county clerk's office at Kingston. This, as Judge Clearwater observes, does not account for all the known facts, and at least does not explain why the records were shipped from Quogue, N. Y.

Soon after the return of the records, the board of supervisors, on motion of Mr Deyo, at their meeting of December 13, 1895, adopted the following resolution:

That the ancient records of this county, recently returned to the county clerk's office, be translated from the Dutch into English by a competent translator to be selected by the county judge, and that the same be properly bound under the direction of the county clerk, the entire cost not to exceed the sum of five hundred dollars, the bill therefore to be audited by the chairman of this board.

In accordance with this resolution, Judge A. T. Clearwater of Kingston selected in 1896 Mr Dingman Versteeg, a native of Holland and official translator of the Holland Society of New York, to make a full translation of the Dutch records, a task which occupied most of the translator's time for three years.

The translations, substantially bound in three large folio volumes, are entitled: "Deeds; Translations, Dutch Records, Ulster County," and contain:

Vol. 1 (645p.) Bond of May 31, 1658, and records of July 12, 1661-Feb. 16, 1672/3.

Vol. 2 (640p.) Records of Feb. 21, 1672/3-Oct. 23, 1682.

Vol. 3 (390p.) Records of Nov. 1682-Oct 22, 1766.

The final date of the records in the third volume is accounted for by the fact that the volume includes translations of certain church records of Kingston, Marbletown and New Paltz, which are not mentioned in the present inventory, but may be found listed on page 13 of the "Report on the Public Archives of New York," by Prof. Herbert L. Osgood, published in volume 2 of the *Annual Report* of the American Historical Association for the year 1900.

The first part of Versteeg's translation, covering the court minutes from July 12, 1661, to November 18, 1664, was published in revised form, with an introduction by Samuel Oppenheim, in volume XI of the *Proceedings* of the New York State Historical Association, 1912.

RECORDS OF THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF KINGSTON FROM 1688 UNTIL THE INCORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF KINGSTON in 1805

The patent granted by Governor Thomas Dongan on May 19, 1687, and approved by the council on May 17, 1688, erected the freeholders and inhabitants of Kingston into one body corporate and politic, to be called by the name of "The Trustees of the Freeholders and Commonalty of the Town of Kingston," thereby creating what is commonly known as the corporation of the town of Kingston. The charter provided for the annual election by the freeholders and commonalty of twelve trustees, of whom five were

to be chosen as magistrates to hold a court of pleas of debt and trespass. The charter further provided for the annual election of three constables and three overseers, to whom other town officers were added from time to time, constituting a civil organization similar to the "town" of later years. A complete copy of the charter is printed on pages 510-15 of Schoonmaker's *History of Kingston*, to which reference is made for further particulars.

The corporation continued its existence practically without change until 1753, when questions arose as to the limits of the corporations and the legality and jurisdiction of the local court. To settle these difficulties, the trustees on March 26, 1754, signed a petition for a new charter, which was read in council on the 29th of the same month, when leave was given to lay before the council a draft of a new charter. No action appears to have been taken at that time. Efforts to procure a new charter were renewed by the trustees in April 1773, but again without result. It seems that the limited powers of the trustees were not sufficient for the administration of the town and that gradually a town government distinct from that of the corporation grew up. Mr N. B. Sylvester, in his *History of Ulster County*, page 198, makes the statement that the town meeting of 1788 was the last at which the business of the "town" and of the "corporation" was transacted together and that this was the point of departure from which the corporation was to decline in importance and finally to disappear. According to Mr Sylvester, the town organization in 1789 held its first annual meeting separate from the corporation and from that time a sort of dual government must have existed, although the clerks of the "corporation" were undoubtedly clerks of the "town" a part or all the time down to 1816.

On September 13, 1799, a proposition came before the trustees to surrender their trust in the lands that were common property and parcel them out by conveying to such persons as were entitled thereto, lots ranging in size from 10 to 30 acres. On June 30, 1800, a committee was appointed to devise a plan for the conveyance of a part of the commons. No definite conclusion was reached and the matter remained in abeyance until April 1, 1803, when eight resolutions were adopted for the distribution of the lands among the freeholders. In this distribution the inhabitants of the village of Kingston fared not so well as residents of other parts of the town, for which reason the trustees on January 10, 1804, resolved to lay out additional lands in compensation. In the spring of that

year a bitter contest was waged in the election of trustees. The old board, composed of Federalists, was routed and a new board, entirely composed of Republicans, was elected. The old board, by the sale of lands, had accumulated a considerable fund. Little was accomplished with this money by the new board which, just before election, on March 2, 1805, voted to give large sums to the Dutch churches of Kingston, Caatsbaan and Klyne Esopus. At the election the last board was defeated. The incoming board now found itself confronted with the problem of defraying the necessary expenses of government out of a depleted treasury. Doubtless partly as a result of these difficulties and the gradual development of the dual form of government to which allusion has been made, an act was passed on April 6, 1805, for the incorporation of the village of Kingston. After the incorporation of the village and the distribution of the corporation lands, the trustees were vested with little power besides the care of the small amount of funds and the care of the poor.

On April 5, 1811, an act was passed to divide the town of Kingston and to create therefrom the towns of Saugerties and Esopus. This act provided that "All the corporate estate and interest, remaining undivided . . . in the Trustees and Freeholders and Commonalty of the town of Kingston . . . shall be . . . vested in the overseers of the poor of the said respective towns of Esopus, Kingston and Saugerties." The trustees refused to transfer the corporate property, taking the ground that the law was unconstitutional. The case was brought to trial at a court of oyer and terminer on November 16, 1811, but sent to a higher court. The people stood by the indicted trustees and reelected them annually until 1815, when, the courts having adjudged the act of 1811 constitutional, the entire board, with the exception of William Swart, refused to run for reelection. The new board proceeded to wind up the affairs of the corporation and on December 13, 1816, adopted a resolution to assign the remainder of the corporate funds to the supervisors and overseers of the poor of the respective towns of Esopus, Saugerties and Kingston.

On October 11, 1816, the trustees turned over all their records to the clerk of Ulster county. A formal record of this transaction was made on pages 291-92 of book 22 of Deeds in the county clerk's office, as follows:

This certifies to all whom it concerns That we the Trustees of the freeholders & commonalty of the town of Kingston in Ulster County in con-

sideration of the sum of One Dollar lawful money of the State of New York to us paid at the execution hereof by Christopher Tappen

L. S.

Clerk of said County & for divers other good considerations us thereto moving Have granted and delivered & hereby Do grant and deliver unto the said Christopher Tappen Clerk of said County and to his Successors in office forever, All the records and Maps now belonging to the said Trustees and all our books, minutes and papers together with our Chest, Excepting only such papers as by law we must transfer to the Overseers of the poor of Kingston, Saugerties & Esopus, On Condition that the said Map records and papers shall be permanently deposited in the Clerk's office of said County for the use of the inhabitants of said towns of Kingston, Saugerties & Esopus at all reasonable times without expense of search. To have & To hold the said Map, records, papers & chest to the said Christopher Tappen Clerk of said County & his successors in office forever on the conditions & for the uses aforesaid. Witness our Common Seal the eleventh day of October on[e] thousand Eight hundred and Sixteen.

JOHN CHIPP SPEAKER

1816 October 11th. The within consideration money satisfied to the within Trustees.

JOHN CHIPP SPEAKER

State of New York ss. On the 11 day of October 1816 before me came John Chipp Esqr. Speaker of the within Trustees and also a majority of said Trustees all to me well known & they acknowledged the within as their Common Seal and within affixed by their authority. I allow it to be recorded.

CH. TAPPEN, JUN^R.

Master in Chancery

A True Record entered this 14th day of December 1816 at 10 o'Clock A. M.

CHRIST^R. TAPPEN, *Clk.*¹

The transfer of the records of the trustees to the county clerk's office was confirmed by chapter 164 of the Laws of 1817, section II of which, in conformity with the above certificate, provides "That the maps, records, minutes, papers and chart, now or heretofore belonging to the trustees, shall hereafter be permanently deposited in the said clerk's office for the benefit and inspection, at all reasonable times, of the said inhabitants of Kingston, without fee or reward."

In 1853 the records were once more made the subject of legislation, chapter 497 of the laws of that year providing that:

§ 1 The records of conveyances made by the trustees of the corporation of the town of Kingston, Ulster county, and contained in twelve volumes, and now deposited in the office of the clerk of the county of Ulster are hereby made county records of the said county.

§ 3 The said volumes shall be bound, repaired, lettered, and indexed and such portions as are torn and dilapidated copied and certified under the supervision of John Van Buren of the town of Kingston.

¹ For a copy of this record the compiler is indebted to Chaplain R. R. Hoes. A heavy iron chest in the cellar of the county clerk's office is probably the chest referred to in the record.

The records of the corporation as they are found at present in the Ulster county clerk's office consist of eight volumes of deeds, two volumes of accounts, six volumes of minutes of the trustees and five volumes of minutes of the town court, while an additional volume of minutes of the trustees for 1713-1736/7 is in the possession of the New York Historical Society. Just what volumes were included in the "twelve" volumes that are referred to in the act of 1853 is not clear. In accordance with this act John Van Buren had the eight volumes of deeds substantially bound. He also copied such pages as were torn or dilapidated and substituted these copies for the original pages, which are now lost.

In 1875 further repairs and a few annotations to the records were made by Daniel T. Van Buren, who under authority of the board of supervisors granted in November 1873, was appointed by Charles W. Deyo, then clerk of Ulster county, commissioner to have repaired and preserved certain maps and old records in the office of the clerk of said county.

During the period that is covered by this chapter Kingston played a notable part in the history of the State. Four times it had the honor of being the capital of the State, first from September 9 to October 7, 1777, then from August 24 to October 25, 1779, again from April 22 to July 2, 1780, and finally from January 27 to March 27, 1783.

On June 16, 1776, the records of the province were brought to Kingston, where they remained until October 12, 1777, four days before the burning of Kingston by the British, when they were taken to Rochester, Ulster county, to be afterwards moved first to Marbletown and then to Poughkeepsie. Nothing seems to be known about the removal of the local records of Kingston before the destruction of the town by the British, but as hardly a house remained standing and none of the records seem to have been lost at that time, it is probable that they were removed at the same time as the provincial records.

RECORDS OF THE VILLAGE OF KINGSTON

1805-72

The village of Kingston was incorporated by chapter 87 of the Laws of 1805, entitled "An Act to vest certain powers in the freeholders and inhabitants of the village of Kingston," which was signed by Governor Morgan Lewis on April 6, 1805. The act provided for the election on the first Tuesday in May 1805 of five

"directors," a name evidently chosen to avoid confusion with the trustees of the corporation of Kingston, who continued to exercise their functions until 1816. By the act the freeholders and inhabitants were ordained and declared to be one body politic and corporate by the name of "The directors of the village of Kingston," the directors to be in law capable of purchasing, holding and conveying real and personal estate for the use of the village, of erecting public buildings and of raising money by tax for the erection, repairs or improvement of such public buildings, the purchase of fire engines or other useful machines or implements. The directors were further empowered to make and publish by-laws and regulations relating to public markets, the assize of bread, town watch, lighting of streets, slaughterhouses, public nuisances, fire companies, drainage, disorderly or tipling houses, restraining geese and swine, and the use of weights and measures, and to levy fines not exceeding \$25 against the offenders of such by-laws and regulations. The act also provided for the annual election by the freeholders of three assessors, one treasurer, one collector and as many fire wardens as the directors should direct. In case the directors resolved to improve any streets or alleys, three special assessors were to be appointed, who must return a certificate in writing of the estimate and assessment. The directors were also directed to appoint and keep a clerk, whose duty it was to record all by-laws, rules and regulations in a book or books provided for that purpose, to which the freeholders were to have access. The act finally provided that the powers and authority vested in the trustees of the town of Kingston by act of March 24, 1797, for the better extinguishing of fires in said town, were transferred and vested in the directors of the village, and that all powers formerly exercised by the trustees in relation to the objects mentioned within the bounds of the village should from the passing of the act cease, terminate and be utterly void.

The powers and duties of the directors were gradually changed and extended by subsequent acts. By chapter 231 of the Laws of 1830, it was made lawful for the directors to appoint a street commissioner, and to lay out new streets, such streets to be accurately surveyed and a map thereof to be filed with the clerk of the village. By the same act the village was declared to be a separate road district in the town of Kingston. By chapter 472 of the Laws of 1836, a hook and ladder company was ordered to be appointed for the village, to consist of not less than eight and not more than

twelve persons. Section 3 of the same act provided that the president of the board, with the consent of the members of the fire and hook and ladder companies, should appoint a chief engineer of the fire department. Chapter 164 of the Laws of 1838 authorized the directors to increase the fire department so as to consist of not more than three companies and one hook and ladder company, and to appoint a sufficient number of members, not exceeding 24 to each company. Under chapter 112 of the Laws 1851, the village of Kingston continued to be a separate road district in the town of Kingston and to be exempt from the superintendence of the commissioners of highways of the town. Provision was also made for the annual election of overseers of highways in the village.

The above-mentioned amendments to the original act of incorporation were consolidated by chapter 184 of the Laws of 1854, entitled "An Act revising, amending and consolidating the several acts in relation to the village of Kingston." This act carefully defined the bounds of the village and described the powers and duties of the officers and the board. It provided for the division of the district into seven wards and declared it to be the duty of the street commissioner to perform all the duties of an overseer of highways in the village.

By chapter 162 of the Laws of 1855, the fire department of the village was incorporated under the name of "The Kingston Associated Fire Department," the object of the incorporation being to establish a fund for the relief of disabled firemen and their families.

By chapter 432 of the Laws of 1857, the act of 1854 was amended so as to provide for the annual election of one director from each ward, making seven directors instead of the former five. The same act provided for the appointment of a clerk by the directors, but by chapter 589 of the Laws of 1857 the office of clerk was made elective.

A general revision of the laws relating to the village was again made on April 8, 1861, by chapter 145, entitled "An Act to amend and consolidate the several acts in relation to the village of Kingston." This act authorized the directors to change the number of wards to not less than seven and not more than ten. It provided for the election of one director from each ward and further for the election of three assessors, one treasurer, one collector and one police justice, and for the appointment of a clerk, a street commissioner and other subordinate officers. It also ordered the directors to provide for the care and custody and

preservation of the public property, records, books and papers belonging to the village and to make, or cause to be made, maps of the village. The directors were thenceforth to act as a board of health. The clerk was to record the proceedings of the board and all ordinances; to file and preserve the books and papers belonging to the village and to keep a poll list. The act also prescribed minutely the duties of the treasurer, the street commissioner, the assessors and the collector and provided that a police justice should be elected for three years and have jurisdiction in all criminal cases, and where one of the parties resides in the village in all civil cases the same as is now possessed by justices of the peace in the several counties of the State. The office of police justice was abolished by chapter 78 of the Laws of 1862, which provided that the several justices of the peace of the town of Kingston, or any town adjoining the same in the county of Ulster, should have jurisdiction in all criminal and civil matters arising under and by virtue of the charter of the village.

By chapter 360 of the Laws of 1863, school districts numbers 5, 8, 11 and 15 of the town of Kingston were consolidated into one district to be called "The Kingston school district," and a board of education was created, consisting of the trustees of the primary districts and the trustees of the Kingston school district. The act provided that this board should organize if a majority of the voters in districts 5, 8, 11 and 15 at an election to be held on the third Wednesday in May 1863 should vote "For the school law," meaning chapter 360, otherwise the act was to be of no effect. The voters having voted in favor of the school law, the board, in accordance with the act, held its first meeting on the last Wednesday in May 1863, and appointed a secretary to keep a record of the proceedings and a treasurer to keep accounts. The board also appointed a collector.

By chapter 600 of the Laws of 1867, passed on the 23d of April, the bounds of the village were extended according to a survey made by John E. Van Etten, surveyor, on the 11th of March of that year.

By chapter 150 of the Laws of 1872, passed on March 29, 1872, the villages of Kingston and Rondout were united and incorporated into the city of Kingston. The election of city officials was to take place within 20 days after the passage of the act. During March and April the village board were occupied in making all necessary arrangements for closing up the village business. The last regular meeting of the board was held on April 15, 1872, the evening before the day of the first city election.

As stated at the beginning of this bulletin, the records of the former village of Kingston are preserved in the vault of the city clerk, in the city hall at Kingston. From this statement should be excepted, however, the records of the board of education, which are kept in the high school, opposite the city hall, and the maps, which are kept in the city engineer's office. The records of the village in the city clerk's office consist in the main of minutes of the board of directors, a volume of ordinances, a book relating to roads, two audit books and a record of members of the fire department from 1863. No files of loose papers appear to have been preserved.

The minutes of the board of directors are incomplete, volume 2, covering the period between September 22, 1830, and January 8, 1854, being missing. The loss of the volume is noted on page 202 of N. B. Sylvester's *History of Ulster County*, which was published in 1880. Since that time no trace of the volume appears to have been found.

RECORDS OF THE VILLAGE OF RONDOUT

1849-72

Rondout became an incorporated village by chapter 199 of the Laws of 1849, entitled "An Act to incorporate the village of Rondout," which passed on April 4, 1849, and took effect on the first day of May following. The act provided that all that part of the town of Kingston, in the county of Ulster, within certain bounds that are described in the act, should thereafter be known and distinguished by the name of "The village of Rondout," and that the inhabitants residing therein should thenceforth "be a body corporate and politic, by the name of the trustees of the village of Rondout." It also provided for the election of five trustees, three assessors, three fire wardens, a clerk, a treasurer and a collector, and minutely described the powers and duties of the various officers, article 21 of section 13 providing that the trustees shall act as a board of health. The act gave the trustees power to appoint one or more companies of firemen, of 25 members each, and one or more hook and ladder companies of 20 members each. This provision was amended by chapter 67 of the Laws of 1850, by changing the number of members of each fire company to not more than 50 and by giving the trustees power to appoint a chief engineer.

By chapter 118 of the Laws of 1851, the village of Rondout was made a separate highway district and the trustees, acting as highway

commissioners, were authorized to appoint annually one or more overseers of highways. By the same act the trustees were created a board of excise. By chapter 115 of the Laws of 1857, the members of the different companies composing the fire department were empowered to vote annually for a chief engineer and an assistant engineer. By chapter 63 of the Laws of 1858, passed on March 30, 1858, the fire department was incorporated, each company being directed to choose each year three trustees, which trustees were to choose a president, a vice president, a secretary and a treasurer. April 22, 1867, an act was passed entitled "An Act to amend and consolidate the several acts in relation to the village of Rondout." Under this act, which is designated as chapter 514, the officers of the village were to be five trustees, three assessors, three fire wardens, a clerk, a treasurer, a collector, a street commissioner and such subordinate officers as might be authorized by the act.

Rondout ceased to exist as a village on March 29, 1872, when it was united with the village of Kingston and incorporated as the city of Kingston. The business of the village, however, was not closed until April 20, 1872, when the last entry was made in the minutes of the trustees.

The records of the village of Rondout are kept in the vault of the city clerk in the city hall at Kingston. They consist of minutes of the trustees and of the board of health, some tax and assessment rolls and a record of the fire department. With the exception of the minutes of the trustees, the records are very incomplete. No accounts of the treasurer, nor any bills or vouchers, or other files of papers, appear to have been preserved.

CITY RECORDS OF KINGSTON

1872-1918

The city of Kingston was chartered by chapter 150 of the Laws of 1872, entitled "An Act to incorporate the city of Kingston," which passed on March 29, 1872, and took effect immediately. The limits of the city, as defined by the charter, included the territories of the former incorporated villages of Kingston and Rondout and the unincorporated village of Wilbur, a settlement which grew up on the Rondout creek, at the mouth of the Twaalf kill, a mile or more below Eddyville, in the present eighth ward of the city. The charter provided for the election of a mayor, a recorder, four justices of the peace, three assessors, four constables and a sealer of weights and measures by the city at large; of two supervisors

from each of the three departments into which the nine wards of the city were grouped and of two aldermen and three inspectors of election in each ward; and for the appointment by the mayor and common council of a treasurer, a clerk, a superintendent of streets, sewers and city property, one commissioner of alms in each ward, two fire wardens in each ward, a pound master, two chief engineers of the fire department and four assistants, policemen not to exceed five in number, a health officer, a health superintendent, three commissioners of excise, and such other officers as were authorized by the act.

The charter of the city of Kingston was repeatedly amended, notably by chapter 747 of the Laws of 1896, entitled "An Act to revise and consolidate the several acts in relation to the city of Kingston, to revise the charter of said city and to establish a city court therein and define its jurisdiction and powers," which became a law on May 20, 1896, and by subsequent general amendments of the act of 1896 by chapter 411 of the Laws of 1906, chapter 611 of the Laws of 1911, chapter 611 of the Laws of 1915, and chapter 464 of the Laws of 1916.

As a result of these various amendments, the powers and duties of the various city officers changed and new boards and offices were created and others abolished or consolidated, thus bringing about many changes in the administration of the affairs of the city which in turn were duly reflected in the extent and character of the records.

Instead of tracing these administrative changes in the present chapter, it seems best, in view of the large number of offices to be dealt with, to mention them briefly in connection with the records of the several departments of the city government as they are listed in the inventory at the end of this bulletin.

Before closing this account, a word should be said in regard to the records of the former manor of Fox Hall. This manor was apparently composed of two tracts of land, of which one was known as Thomas Chambers's plantation and consisted of several parcels that were purchased by him at different times since 1652, some of the Indians and others of white settlers, while the other is described as being situated "not far from Captain Thomas Chambers's plantaçon." Confirmatory patents for the various parcels making up the first tract were issued to Thomas Chambers by Governor Richard Nicolls on May 21 and May 24, 1667, while the second

tract was granted to him on May 27, 1667. The boundaries of the manor are not definitely known. According to *Olde Ulster*, 1906, volume 2, page 104, "The manor of Fox Hall lay to the north of the present city of Kingston and included the land latterly known as the Van Leuven and Kiersted farms. But its bounds were much greater than these. Chambers' tract extended to Rondout where he was buried with his family." The mansion house and land belonging to Thomas Chambers were erected into a manor by Governor Francis Lovelace on October 16, 1672. It was declared to be "an entire enfranchised Mannor. of it self," not subject to the rule, order or direction of any town court.¹ The privilege granted by Governor Lovelace was confirmed by Governor Thomas Dongan by patent of October 28, 1686, when three hundred acres were added to the manor and Thomas Chambers was granted the right to hold court-leet and court-baron. The manor of Fox Hall continued to form a separate jurisdiction until March 1787, when by legislative act it was annexed to the corporation of the town of Kingston. While the bounds of the manor are not definitely known, it would seem from the location of the site of the burial vault of Thomas Chambers in Rondout that at least a portion of the manor must be within the limits of the present city, consequently, that the records of the manor, in a similar way as the records of the corporation, might be considered as part of the historical records of the city. The question, however, is a purely academic one, for nothing is known of the records of the manor and as in many other manors that existed in the province of New York during the colonial period, it is doubtful whether any court-leet, or court-baron was ever held.

INVENTORY

Dutch and English Records Prior to the Incorporation of the Town of Kingston

1 Court records, 1, 1661-1664. 336 pages

Contains a copy of a bond by the inhabitants of Wildwyck to demolish their separate dwellings and to surround the village with a stockade, May 31, 1658, and minutes of the court, July 12, 1661-May 6, 1664. A translation of this volume and of part of the next volume, to November 18, 1664, inclusive, made in 1896 by Dingman Versteeg and revised by Samuel Oppenheim, was published in 1912 in volume XI of the *Proceedings* of the New York State Historical Association.

2 Court records, 2, 1664-1667. 360 pages

Contains minutes of June 29, 1664-Nov. 5/15, 1667.

¹ Cf. the description of Ulster county in act of November 1, 1683, on p. 11 of this bulletin.

3 Court records, 3, 1667-1673. 302 pages

Contains minutes of November 12/22, 1667-August 26, 1673. At the end are found an indenture of service acknowledged before the secretary, 1672/3, and summons to appear before the next court of sessions, the latter in English.

4 Court records, 4, 1673-1675. 100 pages

Also marked "Liber C." Contains minutes of November 9, 1673-November 11, 1675.

5 Court records, 5, 1676-1684. 243 pages

Contains minutes of December 22, 1676-October 15, 1684. Also one instrument acknowledged before Thos. Garton, justice of the peace, dated December 19, 1685.

Inserted at the beginning of the volume is an inventory of the records delivered on February 19, 1700/1, by Humphrey Davenport, late clerk of Ulster and Dutchess counties. The inventory includes 22 volumes, which are designated by letter, but not otherwise identified. Each letter is followed by a statement as to the number of pages composing the record or that were found to be torn out. At the end is written: "this is but part of the Records: the Rest are to be delivered a Saturday next being the two en twintyth of this Instance when the aboue^sd. Comitty boudewyn De widt and John gasherie are to take Inventory of them."

6 Court records, 6, 1681-1684. 354 pages

Contains: (a) minutes of January 8, 1680/1-March 13, 1683/4, 172 pages; (b) minutes of March 15, 1680/1-September 5, 1683, pages 173-354.

7 Secretary's papers, Liber A, 1664-1665. 140 pages

Contains depositions, deeds, mortgages, contracts, bonds, wills, etc. April 7, 1664-December 31, 1665.

8 Secretary's papers, Liber B, 1666-1681. 442 pages

Contains:

a Register of the secretary, January 5, 1666-July 23, 1667, 190 pages.

b Contract of sale of horses, Gouwert Poulussen to Cornelis Barentsen Slecht, 1670, and two memoranda of fees due March 16, 1670, and November 9, 1673, pages 191-92. Pages 193-220 are blank.

c Register of the secretary, January 11-November 22, 1675, pages 221-35. Pages 236-54 are blank.

d Register of the secretary, March 10, 1675-November 9, 1676, pages 255-76. Pages 277-92 are blank.

e Register of the secretary, January 5, 1678/9-February 29, 1680, pages 293-95. Page 296 is blank.

f Bill of sale of three negro slaves, from John Colliway to Gabriel Minviele, 1680 (in English), page 297. Pages 298-316 are blank.

g Register of the secretary, March 3, 1679-February 27, 1679/80, pages 317-81. Page 382 is blank.

h Indenture, December 23, 1678 (in English), page 383. Pages 384-400 are blank.

i Register of the secretary, March 3, 1679/80-January 7, 1680/1, pages 401-42.

9 Secretary's papers, Liber C, 1669-1672. Pages 13-166. Pages 1-12 are blank

Contains the register of Secretary La Montagne, December 27, 1669-October 7, 1672.

10 Secretary's papers, Liber D, 1672-1673

Contains deeds, etc., November 4, 1672-April 20, 1673. Marked in margin of first page "E."

11 Secretary's papers, Liber E, 1676-1679. 216 pages

Contains: (a) Register of Secretary La Montagne, March 29, 1676-March 5, 1678/9, pages 3-133; (b) Minutes of the court of sessions, April 26, 1676-December 14, 1680 (reverse side), pages 134-216.

All the above records, with the exception of the parts that are marked as being in English, are written in the Dutch language. Complete translations of them were prepared by Mr Dingman Versteeg, for which see page 14 of this bulletin.

Records of the Corporation of the Town of Kingston

1688-1816

1 Trustees Records, 1688-1731. 522 pages

This volume consists of three parts, marked A, B and C.

Part A contains 206 pages. The first 14 pages of the original record are missing and in their place are inserted transcripts in the handwriting of John Van Buren, commissioner. On the outside of these transcripts is written: "Trustees of Kingston Conveyances &c. From the year 1688 to the year 1703, both Inclusive. W. D. Meyer Corporation clerk."

Part B lacks pages 1-8 and 129-133, for which transcripts have been substituted. Marked: "Trustees of Kingston Conveyances &c. From the year 1705 to the year 1715/6, both Inclusive. Book number B containing 133 pages. The first 65 pages W. D. Meyer Corp. Clk."

Part C lacks pages 1-2 and 179-183, transcripts being substituted for all but the last page, on which is written: "183 This page is lost." Marked: "From the year 1716 to the year 1731, both Inclusive. Book of conveyances Number C, containing 183 pages. John Crooke Junior Corporation Clerk." The last deed is incomplete.

2 Trustees Records, 1729-1764. 375 pages

Marked: "Trustees of Kingston Conveyances &c. From the year 1729 to the year 1764 Inclusive Book Number D."

3 Trustees Records, 1767-1798. 470 pages

Marked: "Trustees of Kingston Record of Conveyance Number E . . . From the year 1767 to the year 1798 both Inclusive."

4 Trustees Records, 1798-1816. 300 pages

Marked: "Trustees Record N° F . . . From the year 1798 to the year 1816 Both Inclusive."

5 Trustees Records, 1804. 555 pages

Marked: "Trustees Records Book G... all Dated in the year 1804." Volume consists of conveyances on printed blanks.

6 Trustees Records, 1804. 551 pages

Marked: "Book H Trustees Record for the year 1804." Printed blanks.

7 Trustees Records, 1804-1805. 446 pages

Marked: "Trustees Record Book I For the years 1804 & 1805." Printed blanks. First two pages missing.

8 Trustees Records, 1805-1816. 401 pages

This volume consists of three parts, marked J, K and L.

J Deeds, 1805-1813, and one deed of 1816. 286 pages

K " 1813-1816. 72 pages

L " 1816. 43 pages. First 2 pages copied by John Van Buren.

A manuscript Index to the conveyances in the preceding volumes of Records is in the Ulster county clerk's office. Typewritten abstracts by Gustave Anjou of the conveyances in parts A and B of the first volume are in the New York State Library and a list of conveyances, 1688-1700, is printed on pages 191-94 of N. B. Sylvester's *History of Ulster County*.

9 Trustees Records. Treasurer's accounts, 1720/1-1805. 270 pages

Marked on fly leaf: "Treasurer's accounts from the year 172 $\frac{0}{1}$ to 1804." Contains some entries for 1805.

10 Trustees Records. Treasurer's accounts, 1805-1816. About 100 pages; the rest of the volume blank

On fly leaf is written: "Treasurer's Accounts from 1805 to 1816 when the Trustees closed their accounts as Trustees pursuant to an Act of the Legislature passed 1811."

11 Trustees Minutes, Jan. 22, 1688/9-March [27], 1689.

These minutes are recorded in a volume of town court minutes, 1688-1698, mentioned under no. 18, which with a number of early Dutch and English records is kept in a wooden box in the Ulster county clerk's office. The first pages of this record, containing court and trustees minutes, November 21, 1688-February 20, 1688/9, were for many years separated from the rest of the record and about 1875, under the supervision of Daniel T. Van Buren, bound with Trustees Minutes, 1783-1795, then labeled 1688-1795. These pages are now restored to their proper place at the beginning of the town court minutes.

12 Trustees Minutes, Feb. 16, 1705/6-Feb. 4, 1712/3.

Unbound volume, kept in a box with the Dutch records. Mixed in with the minutes of the trustees are minutes of the town court, April 3, 1706-November 5, 1712. The two outer leaves, containing minutes of February 16-23, 1705/6 and November 5, 1712-February 4, 1712/3, are loose. They were for many years bound with Trustees Minutes, 1783-1795, but have recently been restored to their proper places at the beginning and the end of the volume to which they belong.

13 Trustees Minutes, Oct. 7, 1713-Feb. 25, 1736/7.

This volume is in the possession of the New York Historical Society, having been presented to the society by Mr H. M. Romeyn of Ulster county, June 19, 1849. According to Marius Schoonmaker, *History of Kingston*, page 185, and now corroborated by Chaplain R. R. Hoes who has given the volume a very careful examination, it also contains minutes of the town court for two or three years. After that there are no court entries.

14 Trustees Minutes, March 1, 1736/7-Feb. 21, 1783. 378 pages

15 Trustees Minutes, 1783-1795. 245 pages

This volume consists of four parts:

1783-1788 45 pages.

1788-1791 87 pages.

1791-1794 73 pages.

1794-1795 49 pages.

16 Trustees Minutes, March 1795-March 1810. About 250 pages

17 Trustees Minutes, March 1810-December 1816. About 50 pages; the rest of the volume blank

Extracts from the Trustees Minutes for 1688, 1706, and 1737-1816 are printed in Sylvester's *History of Ulster County*, pages 194-98. Other extracts for 1708, 1730/1, 1736/7, 1737, 1747 and 1788, are in *Olde Ulster*, 1908, 4:145-46; 1910, 6:279-81; 1913, 9:111.

The following unbound volumes of town court records are kept with the early Dutch records in a box in the Ulster county clerk's office:

18 Town court minutes, Nov. 21, 1688-Nov. 2, 1698.

Contains also a few minutes of the trustees. See no. 11.

19 Town court minutes, April 3, 1706-Nov. 5, 1712.

Mixed in with minutes of the trustees, 1705/6-1712/3, for which see no. 12.

20 Town court minutes, 1713-15?

Entered in volume of Trustees Minutes, 1713-1736/7, mentioned under no. 13.

21 Town court minutes, Aug. 5, 1724-May 7, 1746.

22 Town court minutes, June 4, 1746-1st Wednesday in Feb. 1774.

In addition to these court minutes there is a stray leaf of a town court docket, 1728-1730.

Records of the Village of Kingston

1805-1872

1 Book of Minutes, 1805-1830. 310 pages

Contains the minutes of the proceedings of the directors of the village, including ordinances, from May 11, 1805, to September 22, 1830.

2 Book of Minutes, 1830-1854.

This volume is missing.

3 Book of Minutes, 1854-1863. 540 pages

Contains minutes of the directors, January 8, 1854-April 7, 1863. Since 1861 the directors also acted as a board of health.

4 Book of Minutes, 1863-1870. 636 pages

Contains minutes of the directors, April 13, 1863-April 4, 1870.

5 Book of Minutes, 1870-1872

Marked no. 5. Contains minutes of the directors, April 11, 1870-April 20, 1872.

6 Book of Ordinances, 1855-1860

Contains a copy of the act of April 10, 1854, "Revising, amending and consolidating the several acts in relation to the village of Kingston," and ordinances from June 23, 1855, to April 9, 1860.

7 Kingston Village Roads No. 1, 1865-1870.

Contains resolutions of the board of directors in relation to the streets of the village since the year 1865, entered according to resolution of the board of August 1, 1870.

8 Audit Book, 1861

Contains accounts from January 10, 1861, to April 20, 1872.

9 Audit Book 1865-1868

10 Record of streets, 1832-1871

Contains resolutions and ordinances relating to streets.

11 President's Statements and Annual Reports of Treasurer, 1861-2-3

This is a blank book with newspaper clippings.

12 Records. Fire Department, 1863?-date

This is a list of members of various fire companies, giving name, residence, age, date of election and confirmation and remarks, from about 1863 to date. It is apparently a city record, but includes names of persons who belonged to the fire department when Kingston was still a village, and for that reason is listed here as well as among the records of the city.

In addition to these records there is a roll of papers marked on the outside: "Original Charter of City of Kingston, 1872. Presented by Dr R. Loughran, member of Assembly for the first District of Ulster Co. 1872. This charter passed by the Legislature during the Session of 1872. Draft of Charter drawn by Hon. Marius Schoonmaker. R. L." The document, according to the accompanying letter of transmittal by Mayor Palmer Canfield, jr to the common council, dated May 2, 1916, was found among the effects of the late, the Hon. Marius Schoonmaker, by his grandson, F. E. W. Darrow, who turned it over to the city. On examination, however, it proved to be not the original charter of the city of 1872, but a draft, or a copy, of chapter 145 of the Laws of 1861, entitled "An act to amend and consolidate the several acts in relation to the village of Kingston," which passed on April 8, 1861.

The foregoing records are kept in the vault of the city clerk's office in the city hall at Kingston. The following records are kept in the office of the board of education, in the high school, opposite the city hall.

13 Minutes of the Board of Education, vol. 1, 1863-1877.

The first entry is dated May 20, 1863. Minutes, 1878-date, are listed among the city records.

14 Annual Reports of Superintendent of Kingston Schools to the Board of Education, 1863-1869

Contains also reports, 1892-94, listed among the city records.

- 15 Kingston Board of Education. Committee on Organization, Resolutions and Orders, 1863-1872
- 16 Accounts of nonresident pupils attending Kingston School, 1863-1872
- 17 Kingston School District. Pay-roll for Teachers and Janitors. Commencing Nov. 1863. 1863-1879

Aside from the records mentioned in the preceding list, there are a few maps of the village in the city engineer's office, the earliest map being dated 1823.

Records of the Village of Rondout

1849-72

1 Trustees Minutes, May 1, 1849-April 30, 1867

2 Trustees Minutes, May 1, 1867-April 20, 1872

Marked on outside "Records." The volume contains also minutes of the board of health for the same period.

3 Minutes of the Board of Health, 1854-1864

This is a thin volume, without title. On the fly-leaf is written: "Property of the Village of Rondout. Minutes of the Board of Health, 1855 &c." It contains by-laws passed in May 1852 and minutes of the board of health, June 20, 1854-May 22, 1857. In the back part of the volume are minutes of the trustees and of the board of health, mixed, April 14, 1860-April 19, 1864.

4 Original minutes of the Trustees, Oct. 5, 1869-April 20, 1872

Thin volume, without title. On the inside of the front cover is written: "Rough Minutes of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Rondout."

5 Village Tax Roll, 1852

6 Road Tax Roll, 1860

7 Road Tax Roll, 1862

8. Assessment Roll, 1867, 1868

There is also a separate thin book containing the last part of the assessment roll for June 1867, including name beginning with the letters W-Z.

9 Records. Fire Department of Rondout. 1849-1860

Contains rolls of members of various fire engine, hose, and hook and ladder companies, 1849-58; and lists of officers of fire department and companies, 1859-60.

City Records of Kingston

1872-1918

Office of the Mayor

The mayor's office is located on the second floor of the city hall. It is at present occupied by the newly created department of public

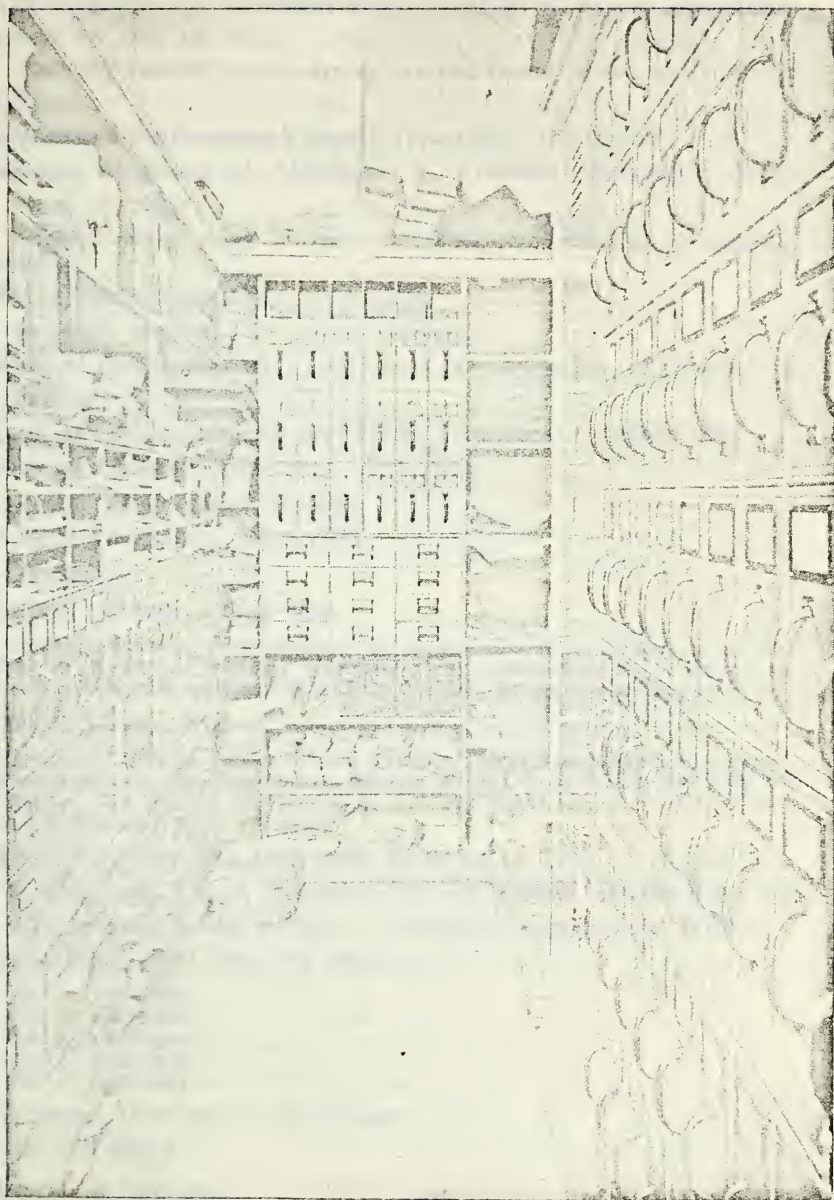
works. There are no official papers of the mayor in this office, most of the papers being filed in the city clerk's office and other current papers and correspondence being kept in the private law office of Mayor Palmer Canfield, jr, on John street.

Common Council

Under the charter of 1872 the common council consisted of the mayor and aldermen; by the revised charter of 1896 the aldermen alone are declared to constitute the common council. The meeting room of the common council is on the second floor of the city hall. There are no records of the common council in this room, all records being kept by the city clerk and filed in his office.

Office of the City Clerk

The office of the city clerk was created by the charter of the city of Kingston of March 29, 1872, the clerk being made the custodian "of the records, books and papers of the said city." His duties are to attend the meetings and act as clerk of the common council and to record in the manner prescribed by said council their ordinances, rules and regulations, by-laws, resolutions and proceedings and the proceedings at elections and meetings of the inhabitants of the city. By the charter his office is declared to be a town clerk's office for the purpose of depositing and filing therein all books and papers required by law to be filed in the town clerk's office. He must also keep an accurate account of all moneys received by him belonging to the city and within ten days after the receipt of any moneys by him pay the same over to the treasurer of the city, for which he must take a receipt from the treasurer and file the same in his office. He must also keep an accurate account of expenditures by the city and of all warrants on the treasurer, the account of said warrants to be kept in a book provided for that purpose, specifying the number of each warrant, that purpose for which it is issued, the number of the voucher and the date of the resolution upon which it is issued. The duties of the clerk as defined by the charter of 1872 have remained practically the same until the present time. Under the general provision that he "shall have the custody of the records, books and papers of the said city," a number of old records, notably those of the former villages of Kingston and Rondout, which have been considered in preceding chapters, are stored in the vault in the city clerk's office. This vault



VAULT IN THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

is situated on the second floor of the city hall, a brick building which was erected by the city under authority of an act of the Legislature passed on May 13, 1873.

The city records which are at present found in the vault are as follows:

Minutes of the Common Council, 1872-date. 16 volumes

Minutes of Board of Aldermen; P. Freeman Hasbrouck, clerk,
April 27, 1872

Volume contains many newspaper clippings of proceedings of common council.

Mayors' annual messages, 1872-1898.

Scrapbook containing newspaper clippings.

Book of Ordinances with certificates of publication, 1873-date. 3
volumes

Book of Ordinances with certificates of publication, 1885-1887

Book of General Ordinances, 1872-1893

Consists of newspaper clippings.

Book of Ordinances, 1872-1876

Clippings.

Record. Streets. 1832-1891

Contains extracts from minutes of commissioners of highways of the town of Kingston, surveys, indentures, city ordinances, etc., relating to streets. A similar volume, 1832-1871, is listed among the village records.

Official Survey, 1877

Entitled: "Official Survey of the Principal Streets and Avenues—giving the Number of Dwelling-houses, Stores, Vacant Lots &c. in the City of Kingston. By George Hasbrouck & Co. As per Resolution of Common Council Passed August 4th 1876."

Street Directory and Reference Book as to Title or Acquisition.

Grades and Other Improvements of Streets in the City of

Kingston, including villages of Kingston, Rondout and Wilbur

Audit Book, 1872-1914. 5 volumes

Vol. 1 1872-1889.

Vol. 2 1889-1898.

Vol. 3 1898-1902.

Vol. 4 1902-1906.

Vol. 5 1907-1914.

Warrants, 1872-1915. 35 volumes

Old stub books.

Warrants, 1916-date

Bond Record, 1871-1896

Bond Register, 1896-date

Contains a record of interest-bearing bonds issued since June 1, 1896.

(Record of) Bonds and Agreements, 1882-1894

Improvement Certificates, 1877

City of Kingston—Legislative Dep't City Clerk. Monthly report of cash receipts, 1915-1917

City of Kingston—Office of the City Clerk. Distribution of warrants & journal vouchers, Jan. 1, 1912-Dec. 1915

General government warrants.

General Warrant and Voucher Register, 1916-1918

Ledger, 1906-1909

Ledger, 1912-1913

Ledger, 1916-1918

Journal, 1909-1918

Cost Account Book (blank)

Tax Roll, 1872-1893. 27 volumes

Tax Book, 1899-1911. 13 volumes

Tax Roll, 1912-1917. 6 volumes

Assessment Roll, 1876-1880. 18 thin volumes

School Tax Assessment Roll, 1916-1918. 2 volumes

Tax Sales, 1876-1897

Register of taxable voters in the nine wards of the city of Kingston, 1877-1880. 9 volumes

Enumeration of the inhabitants of the city of Kingston made under direction of the Mayor, City Clerk and Chief of Police, as per ordinance dated March 11, 1898. 1st-9th wards. 9 volumes

Qualification Book, 1872-date. 2 volumes

Vol. 1 1872-1884.

Vol. 2 1884-date.

These books contain signatures of persons who took the oath of office.

Records. Fire Department. 1863-date

Contains a list of members of the various companies, giving name, residence, age, date of election and confirmation, and remarks.

Marriage Record, Jan. 1, 1908-date

Marriage Record Index, Jan. 1, 1908-date

Monthly reports of city departments, 1914. 16 volumes

Oblong folio patent binders, each holding a few sheets, containing monthly reports to the common council of receipts and disbursements by city departments.

Reports of Alms Commissioners, 1872-1890

Volume of newspaper clippings.

Cash Book. Treasurer. 1888-1892

Treasurer's receipts for amounts received from Commissioners of Excise of the city of Kingston, 1891-1896

Printed blanks, signed by treasurer.

1753409

In addition to the above-mentioned bound volumes, the vault in the city clerk's office contains many filing boxes and drawers with loose papers, the contents of which, as far as it was practicable to examine them, may be indicated as follows:

Committee of Common Council on auditing
accounts

Committee of Common Council on streets,
sewer and water

Committee of Common Council on gas, elec-
tricity, lighting

Committee of Common Council on ways and
means

Committee of Common Council on supplies

Committee of Common Council on railroads

Committee of Common Council on public
buildings

Committee of Common Council on laws and
rules

Committee of Common Council on elections

Committee of Common Council on charter revi-
sion

Committee of Common Council on sale of city
property

Committee of Common Council on liens

Mayor's papers Appointments.

2 boxes

Mayor's papers Vetoes

Mayor's papers Messages

Mayor's papers Resignations

Mayor's papers Bonds of city officers

Mayor's estimates and tax levies

One box each

Unless otherwise indicated, there is one file box for each of the following classes of papers, nearly all of which are of recent date: Common Council meetings, resolutions, petitions, communications, etc. 1916-1918. 3 boxes

Claims and Releases, 1917

Garnishee executions against wages and salaries

Papers are mostly of later date than 1905. One file box of papers to each committee.

Constitutional oaths of office, May 1917 law
 Washington Avenue viaduct
 Franchise tax, from State Tax Department
 Dog census
 Liquor licenses and license eliminations for 1917-18 city local option
 Candidates' election expenses
 Certificates of marriage licenses
 Jail inspection
 School budget
 "Old papers to be examined" (all of recent date)
 Fire Department report and inventory
 Old insurance policies
 Petition and papers in the matter of the complaint of St John's
 Church against the granting of a theater license to building next
 to church
 "Old papers to be examined and filed later" (all of recent date)
 Public hearings on various subjects
 Journal vouchers, 1912-1913. Old system
 Audited vouchers, not entered
 Vouchers, 1904-1912. 60 bundles, not in file boxes
 Vouchers, 1911-1913. 16 file boxes
 Vouchers, 1913-date. 21 boxes
 Ordinances. 13 boxes
 Petitions to Common Council. 9 boxes
 Proposals; general and miscellaneous
 Proposals; streets and sewers
 Resolutions
 Reports. 17 boxes
 Specifications
 Bills and claims; rejected
 Affidavits and proofs of service
 Jury list
 Corporation Counsel; Petitions
 Corporation Counsel; Reports
 Corporation Counsel; Legal papers

The following papers are kept in old-style numbered, steel file boxes which do not belong to the equipment of the vault:

- 1 City clerk's vouchers
- 2 Mayor's vouchers
- 3 Deeds
- 4 Official bonds

- 5 Contractors' bonds
- 6 Insurance policies
- 7 Tax sale certificates
- 8 Receipts and satisfactions
- 9 Chattel mortgages (box is empty)
- 10 Improvement certificates
- 11 Leases and assignments (empty)
- 12 Contracts
- 13 Private papers (empty)

There are also a large number of Corrected Certificates of Special Assessments for city improvements, 1872-date. These consist of printed blanks which are filed flat in 12 steel drawers, about 4 inches deep, and one drawer about 10 inches deep.

In a steel closet in the vault are kept a manuscript map showing the location of street lights in Kingston, three blue prints relating to the construction of sewers, a wall map of the United States and a map of the State of New York.

A letter file for 1917, contained in three cardboard boxes, is also in the vault.

The city clerk's office keeps a file of the Kingston Daily Freeman, the bound volumes from 1880-1913 being kept in the attic of the city hall and the volumes for 1914-1917 being in the vault.

Recorder's Court

The office of recorder of the city of Kingston was established by the charter of 1872, which abolished the office of police justice of the town of Kingston. Under the charter the recorder had power to hear and determine in a summary way any complaint for any violation of the laws of the State or of the ordinances of the city, or any case where the trial by jury was not guaranteed by the constitution; in cases where this right was guaranteed, he was to sit as a court of sessions and had to file a record of the proceedings with the clerk of Ulster county. The recorder was to keep an account of all fees and fines and also a court docket, containing a record or brief statement of all convictions and judgments. The recorder was elected for a term of three years. By chapter 532 of the Laws of 1909, the recorder was made a member of the board of trustees of the police pension fund. The office of recorder was abolished by chapter 611 of the Laws of 1915, to take effect at midnight of December 31, 1917, criminal and civil jurisdiction being from that time vested in the city judge.

The records of the recorder's court are kept in the office of the city judge, with the exception of a box of affidavits for assault and battery warrants, from about 1890 to 1899, which is stored in the attic of the city hall.

The records are as follows:

Record of convictions, 1875-1909. 4 volumes

1 March 1875-June 1879.

2 March 1875-May 1887.

This record is almost identical with no. 1, except that it contains fewer names.

3 May 1887-August 1898.

4 August 1898-March 26, 1909.

Docket, 1876-1917. 14 volumes

1 January 1876-July 31, 1877.

2 August 1, 1877-June 1, 1879.

3 June 2, 1879-November 20, 1880.

4 November 1, 1880-September 13, 1883.

5 September 13, 1883-December 31, 1886.

6 January 3, 1887-September 30, 1890.

7 October 1, 1890-November 30, 1893.

8 December 1, 1893-May 1, 1896.

9 May 1, 1896-May 31, 1899.

10 June 1, 1899-December 31, 1903.

11 January 1, 1904-November 30, 1908.

12 December 1, 1908-August 6, 1912 and loose pages, August 7-December 30, 1912.

13 January 1, 1913-February 29, 1916.

14 March 1, 1916-December 27, 1917.

In addition to the bound records there are some files of loose papers. They range in date from 1872 to December 31, 1917, but are badly arranged and evidently very incomplete.

City Court

"An inferior local court of civil jurisdiction, to be called and known as the city court of the city of Kingston," was created and established from January 1, 1897, by section 54 of title VI of the revised charter of 1896. On the same date the justice's court of the city of Kingston and the office of the justice of the peace therein were abolished. The court had exclusively civil jurisdiction until midnight of December 31, 1917, when by chapter 611 of the Laws of 1915, the recorder's court was abolished and the powers and duties of the recorder were added to those of the city judge.

The records of the court are kept in the court room and in the office of the city judge on the first floor of the city hall and are as follows:

Records of civil actions, 1897-1918. 10 volumes

1 January 1897-October 3, 1899.

2 October 4, 1899-April 17, 1903.

- 3 April 15, 1903- January 24, 1906.
- 4 January 29, 1906-February 6, 1908.
- 5 July 25, 1907-January 15, 1910.
- 6 December 20, 1909-March 20, 1912.
- 7 February 19, 1912-February 16, 1914.
- 8 March 6, 1914-December 30, 1915.
- 9 December 27, 1915-January 1918.
- 10 January 1, 1918-date.

Record of criminal actions, 1918

Vol. 1, January 1, 1918-date

The files of the city court, containing depositions, testimony, bonds, etc., go back to 1897, but are very incomplete.

Corporation Counsel

The office of corporation counsel was established by the revised charter of 1896. The corporation counsel has no office in the city hall. The records of the office are kept in a steel cabinet in the law office of the present corporation counsel, Mr W. D. Brinnier, who is in partnership with Mayor Canfield, the law office of Brinnier and Canfield being located on John street.

The records consist of two registers, 1883-date, giving the title of each case, the date when summons were served and a statement as to the proceedings that were taken. There are also a considerable number of papers that were used in actions and proceedings brought by or against the city or any of its boards or departments. In addition to these papers there are three file boxes with petitions, reports and legal papers of the corporation counsel in the vault of the city clerk's office.

Office of the City Treasurer

The city treasurer's office dates from 1872. In it are kept the financial accounts of the city and the tax rolls and tax sale certificates. Under the charter of 1872 the city treasurer was to perform the duties of tax receiver and collector, but by the revised charter of 1896 provision was made for the appointment of a collector.

The records of the city treasurer, with the exception of a few ledgers and journals which are in the city clerk's office, are kept in a small vault in the treasurer's office on the second floor of the city hall. They are as follows:

Tax rolls, 1872-date

Cash books, 1892-date

Register of bonds

Invoices (mounted in stout folio volumes)

Account books, 1915-date

These books are kept according to the system of accounting prescribed by law for cities of the third class.

In steel file boxes are kept the following papers of recent date:

Water coupons

Warrants

Vouchers

Pay rolls

Resolutions and ordinances

Tax sale receipts

Excise receipts

The office has also a letter file.

Office of the Assessor

The charter of 1872 provided for the election of three assessors. Since 1896 there has been but one assessor, who is appointed by the mayor.

The following records are kept in the office on the second floor of the city hall:

Assessment books, 1881-1917

These are the so-called ward books, in which the assessments are entered under the name of the property owner. The office has also a set of smaller volumes in which the assessments are noted by street and number of the property.

The office has also a series of reports of real estate transfers, made to the assessor by the county clerk. In addition to these papers there are a few bundles of bank statements, vouchers and letters of recent years.

Office of the City Engineer

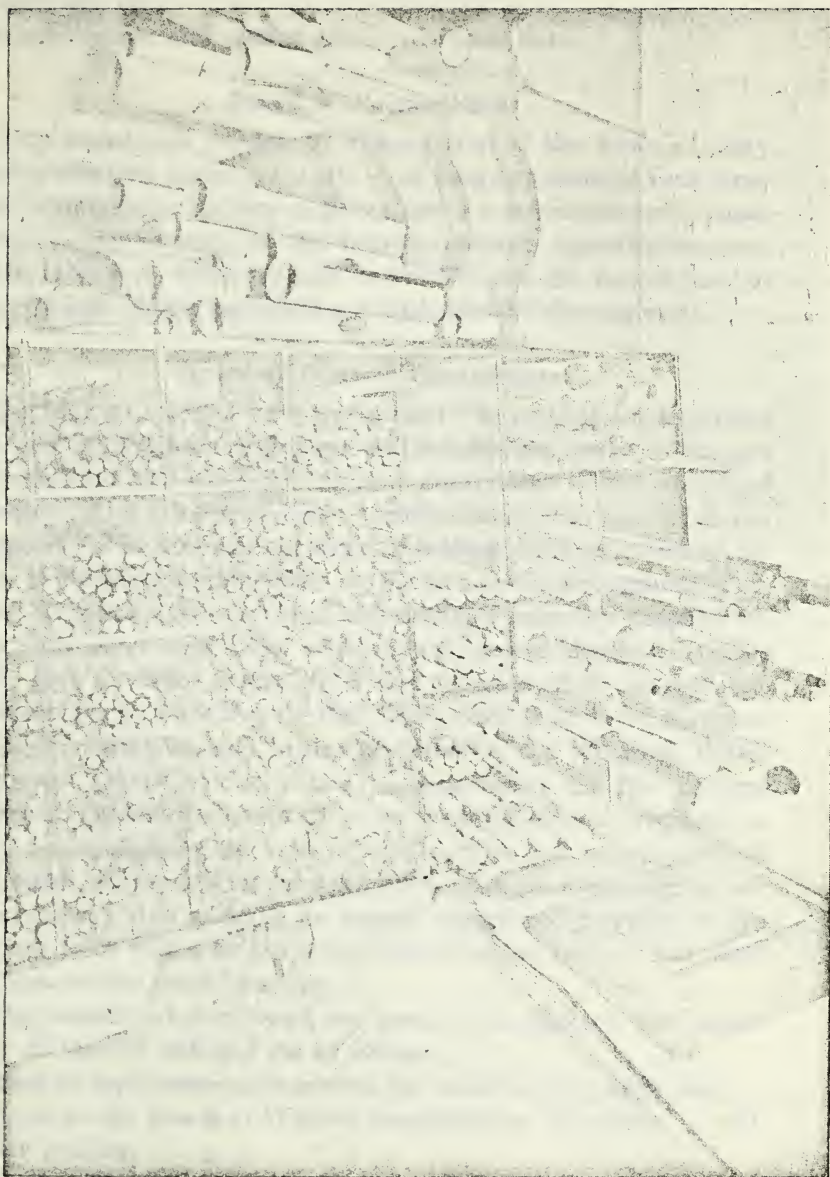
The office of city engineer was established in 1896. In this office are filed all surveys, maps and field notes relating to the construction of bridges, culverts and sewers, the taking of land by eminent domain and the widening, altering, changing or improving streets and parks.

The records are kept in a vault connected with the office on the first floor of the city hall and consist of:

Original maps, plans and blue-prints, 1823?-date

Over 1125 maps, etc., all numbered and indexed. The oldest map noted was dated 1823.

Field books, 1885-date. About 240 volumes



VAULT IN THE CITY ENGINEER'S OFFICE, SHOWING INADEQUATE AND COM-
BUSTIBLE EQUIPMENT

Record of resolutions of the common council relating to street openings, etc.

Correspondence and routine papers of recent date

Board of Public Works

This board was created by chapter 611 of the Laws of 1915, taking effect on January 1, 1916. The board consists of four members who appoint the city engineer and a superintendent of public works. The minutes of the board, contracts, specifications etc. since January 1, 1916, are kept in the office on the second floor of the city hall. Maps and plans are filed with the city engineer.

Board of Water Commissioners

On May 31, 1880, an act was passed "to provide for supplying the city of Kingston with pure and wholesome water." The act provided for the establishment as a department of the municipal government of a board of water commissioners, to consist of eleven members. The law was not to go into effect until approved by the vote of the taxable inhabitants of the city at the next general election. It failed to be approved and a private company supplied the city with water until 1895, when an act, almost identical in terms with that of 1880, passed, this time to take effect immediately. Chapter 359 of the Laws of 1896, authorized the city of Kingston to audit, determine and settle the claim of the Kingston Water Company against said city and to issue bonds for the payment thereof. By law the board of water commissioners is required to keep books showing the cost of construction and maintenance of the water works, and all its collections, receipts, expenditures and proceedings; also to make an annual report and estimate of the amount to be raised by tax to pay the principal, interest and other charges for the next fiscal year.

The records of the board are kept in its office on the second floor of the city hall and are as follows:

Record of applications and permits for water service, 1884-date

Minutes of the Board of Water Commissioners, 1895-date. 3 vols.

Meter readings

Journals, 1895-date

Ledgers, 1895-date

Map of distribution service

Maps showing construction of water works

Vouchers and miscellaneous papers

Board of Charities

By chapter 611 of the Laws of 1915 the commissioners of the almshouse are declared to constitute a department of the city government which shall be designated the board of charities of the city of Kingston. By the same chapter the name of the almshouse was changed to that of the city home. Alms commissioners were appointed under the charter of 1872 by the mayor and common council, one in each ward. Together they composed a corporation by the name of the commissioners of the almshouse of the city of Kingston, which had power to erect an almshouse and to appoint a superintendent of the poor of the city. This superintendent was to keep the minutes of the proceedings of the commissioners, a statement of all warrants drawn upon the treasurer and accurate accounts of receipts and disbursements, together with the names of the persons relieved, the manner of the relief and the time when rendered, and prepare the annual reports. By the revised charter of 1896 the commissioners were declared to constitute a department of the city government. The records of the former alms commissioners and the present board of charities are kept in the city home, a large building located on Flatbush avenue, on the outskirts of the city, which was erected under authority of an act passed on May 21, 1873. The records are as follows:

Minutes of the Board, 1872-date. 6 volumes

- 1 1872-1885.
- 2 1885-1894.
- 3 1895-1904.
- 4 1904-1910.
- 5 1910-1917.
- 6 1917-date.

Record of inmates, or record of commitments, 1872-date

A duplicate of the entries in the inmates records is filed each month with the State Board of Charities.

Accounts record of supplies

Record of rations furnished outside the home

Record of children placed out in homes or in institutions

Record of daily occurrences in home, cases of sickness, deaths, etc. ;
used as a basis for annual report

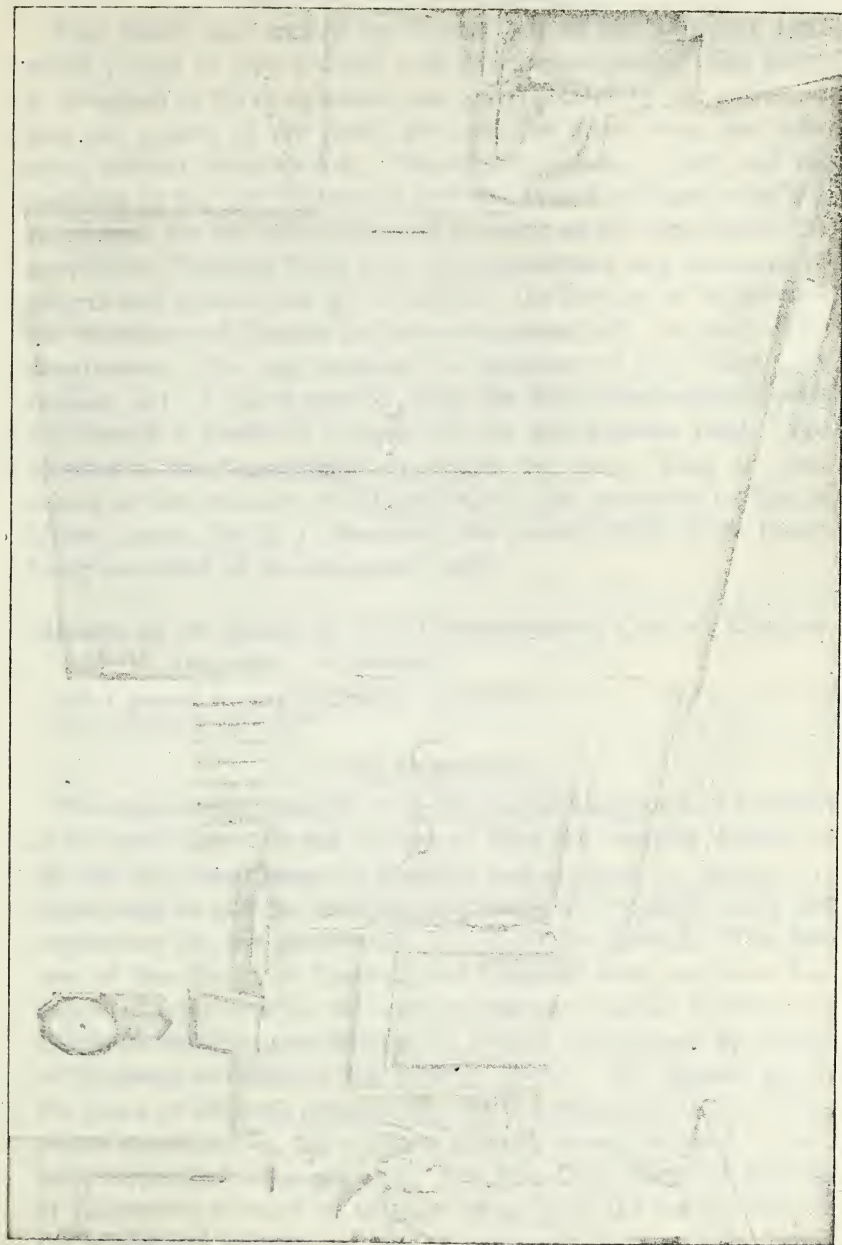
Physician's register

Record of temporary charges

Record of paupers' discharges, 1872-1901

Journals, 1872-date

Ledgers, 1872-date



SAFES IN THE WATER COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE

These safes contain but a part of the records and illustrate the need of a vault

Board of Fire Commissioners

This board was created by chapter 704 of the Laws of 1907 which passed on July 22d and took effect immediately. The board is composed of three members who are appointed by the mayor, at first for a term of six years, but now for three years, and who serve without compensation. The board appoints a clerk and the members of the fire department and adopts and enforces rules and regulations for the preservation of property of the department, the prevention of danger from fires, the appointment and discharge of officers and members of fire companies, the hearing of complaints, the settlement of disputes and the government and discipline of the department. The city treasurer is treasurer of the board. By chapter 611 of the Laws of 1915 the fire commissioners were constituted a board of trustees of the fire pension fund. The minutes of the board begin on August 10, 1907. They are contained in two volumes which are kept in the surrogate's office of Ulster county, Mr B. J. Hornbeck, the present clerk of the board, being also clerk of the surrogate's office.

Minutes of the Board of Fire Commissioners, City of Kingston,
N. Y., 1907—date. 2 volumes

Vol. 1 August 10, 1907—December 23, 1913.

Vol. 2 January 1914—date.

Fire Department

Fire departments existed in the villages of Kingston and Rondout at an early date. By the charter of 1872 the common council of the city was given power to establish and maintain an efficient fire department in and for said city and make all necessary rules and regulations for the government and discipline thereof. The firemen of the villages of Rondout and Kingston were continued firemen of the city and the city was divided into two fire districts, the village of Rondout constituting the eastern district and the village of Kingston constituting the western district. By chapter 325 of the Laws of 1879 all persons who were members of the fire companies organized by the common council were continued to be a body corporate by the name of "The Fire Department of the City of Kingston," a board of trustees being given the management of the affairs and property of said corporation. By the same chapter the laws of 1855 and 1858 incorporating the fire departments of the villages of Kingston and Rondout were repealed. On December

10, 1907, soon after the creation of the board of fire commissioners, the question of changing to a partially paid fire department was taken up and it was resolved that at noon, January 1, 1908, such a change be made.

The records of the fire department are kept in the offices of the chief and deputy chief on the second floor of the central fire station on East O'Reilly street, near the city hall. They are as follows:

Record of fire alarms, 1908–date. 3 volumes

Vol. 1 January 1908–December 1910.

Vol. 2 January 1911–December 1915.

Vol. 3 January 1916–date.

Record of volunteer firemen, 1908–date

This record is copied in part from records in the city clerk's office. It gives the date of election, date of approval and date of expulsion of the members of each company. There are at present nine volunteer companies and three paid stations in the department.

Day sheets, showing hours of duty

This is a loose leaf record copied from blotter, kept since 1913.

Record of supplies

File of applications for new buildings within fire limits established by order of September 1909

Specifications of buildings filed with fire chief

Permit book, consisting of carbon duplicates of permits for new buildings issued by clerk of the board of fire commissioners by order of the board

Monthly record of inspections of buildings

Account book of clerk of fire commissioners, previous to 1912

Records of feet of hose and chemicals used

In addition to the foregoing records there is a small filing case with vouchers, chief's monthly reports, communications, desk minutes, receipts and other miscellaneous papers.

Board of Health

Under the charter of 1872 the board of health was composed of the mayor, the city clerk and two members of the common council who were annually appointed by the council and designated as the committee of public health. This was changed in 1896 and at present the board is organized in accordance with the provisions of the revised statutes of the State of New York.

The office of the board is on the first floor of the city hall. The records that are kept in this office begin in 1881, as follows:

Register of births, 1881–date. 7 volumes and 3 indexes

The first register is marked no. 3 and begins on June 1, 1881.

Register of marriages, 1881-1907. 2 volumes and one index

Marriage records after 1907 are in the city clerk's office.

Register of deaths, 1881-date. 7 volumes and 3 indexes

Transit death record, 1909-date. 1 volume

Contains a record of people who die out of the city but are buried in the city.

Minutes of the board of health, 1883-date. 3 volumes

Vol. 1 1883-1902.

Vol. 2 1902-1914.

Vol. 3 1914-date.

The minutes of the board before 1883 are found in the minutes of the common council.

Daily record of cases of communicable diseases

Kept on sheets since 1916, formerly in book form. Copies of these sheets are sent every three or four days to the State Department of Health.

Employment certificates for children under 16 years of age

School record

Various records of health officer and sanitary inspector

Records of permits issued by the board

Records of milk inspection

Applications of milk dealers, producers and stores for licenses

Record of licenses issued by health officer

Plumbing Board

An examining and supervising board of plumbers and plumbing was organized under chapter 602 of the Laws of 1892. The board occupies the same office as the board of health. The following records are in this office:

Minutes of the plumbing board, 1892-date. 1 volume

These minutes contain a record of examinations of master plumbers.

Yearly register of master plumbers, in the order of the license plates issued

Plumbing inspectors' reports, 1910-date. 1 volume and index

Until recently this record was kept under the name of the owner of the property. It is now kept on cards arranged by street and house number.

Sealer of Weights and Measures

The office was established by the charter of 1872 and was at first elective. By the revised charter of 1896 the office was made appointive. The records of this office consist of duplicates of inspection certificates, which are filed annually with the State Superintendent of Weights and Measures. Mr Moyle, the present incum-

bent, was appointed on January 1, 1918, and has no papers of his predecessors in his possession.

Board of Police Commissioners

The board of police commissioners was established in 1891 and consists of four members, who are appointed by the mayor. The chief of police is the secretary of the board and keeps a record of all their proceedings. The records of the board and of the police department are kept in the office of the chief of police on the first floor of the city hall and consist of the following books and papers: Minutes of the police commissioners, 1891-date. 2 volumes

Vol. 1 May 6, 1891-September 1913.

Vol. 2 October 7, 1913-date (loose leaf record).

Record of the board of trustees of the police pension fund, 1909-date

Warrant book, police pension fund

Record of police fund, containing a record of all moneys received and expended

Warrant book for salaries and other expenses of police department

Started January 28, 1916. Before that date all warrants were drawn by the city clerk.

Monthly report of receipts and disbursements and summary, Jan. 1, 1914-date. 3 books

Kept in duplicate, one set being filed with city clerk.

Police census of the city of Kingston, 1898

Police census of the city of Kingston, 1918

Record of temperatures, 1908-date

Record of arrests

Gives age and occupation of persons arrested and disposition of cases.

Record of ambulance calls

Record of calls made by policemen from their posts

Printed and punched every hour on a tape. Rolls taken out once a day and filed. Rolls destroyed every five years.

Patrolmen's reports, filed daily

Record of fire alarms, reported burglaries, lights down, etc.

Record of licenses issued to junk dealers, kept by means of duplicates

Record of accidents

Board of Education

A school existed in the village of Wildwyck at least as early as August 1662, when Jacob Joosten, the court messenger, is referred

to as schoolmaster. Under the act of 1811, providing for a common school system in the State, the village of Kingston and a considerable extent of adjacent territory was set apart as one school district. In 1839, this school district was divided into three districts, numbered 8, 11 and 12. At different times thereafter districts 5 and 15 were formed from the territory originally comprised within the limits of district no. 8. On April 29, 1863, an act was passed to consolidate school districts 5, 8, 11 and 15 of the town of Kingston into one district to be called "The Kingston school district." The same act provided for the creation of a board of education, consisting of the trustees of the primary districts and the trustees of the Kingston school district. By chapter 494 of the Laws of 1902 the territory within the boundaries of the city of Kingston was made a union free school district and a new board of education was created to be the successor of the several boards of education and of the trustees of the several school districts which then existed in the city. The records of this board and those of its predecessors since 1863 are kept in the office of the board in the high school building opposite the city hall. The records that are of earlier date than 1872 have been listed among the village records. The other records are as follows:

Minutes of the board of education, 1878-date

Volume 1 of the minutes, 1863-1877, is listed among the village records.

Pay roll, 1880-1894

Report of school commissioners, 1892-1893; and Trustees' annual report of the Kingston school district, 1893-1894

These two reports are entered in a volume of Annual reports of superintendents of Kingston schools to the board of education, 1863-1869, which is listed among the village records.

Supply ledger

Appropriation ledger

General ledger

General journal

Warrants

Minute book School district No. 3, 1895-1901

Minutes Free school district No. 4, 1875-1901

Receipts and disbursements, 1886-1896

Board of education in account with Union free school districts, 1874-1899

Monthly report of the public schools of the city of Kingston, showing number of days taught and number of pupils, 1903

Record of pupils of the public schools of the city of Kingston, 1903

Treasurer's accounts, 1874-1888

Treasurer's accounts, 1896-1902

Memorandum book

Order book

In addition to the foregoing records there are a large number of bills and vouchers which are boxed up and stored in School 7. Mention should also be made of the records of the old Kingston Academy, which soon after 1863 passed under the control of the board of education. The minutes of this academy, which was founded in 1774, are referred to in *Olde Ulster*, volume 9, page 323. They are said to be deposited in a bank, but could not be located at the time the inventory of the city records was made.

Civil Service Commissioners

The municipal civil service commission of Kingston consists of three commissioners who are appointed by the mayor in accordance with the rules prescribed by the commission pursuant to chapter 186 of the Laws of 1898, amending chapter 354 of the Laws of 1883, entitled "An Act to regulate and improve the civil service of the state of New York." The commission seems to have been established in 1891. The records are kept in a room connected with the mayor's office on the second floor of the city hall and include:

Roster of appointees, 1891-date

Minutes of the board, Dec. 12, 1898-Dec. 2, 1915

This would seem to be volume 2. Minutes for 1891-1898 are missing.

Minutes of the board, Jan. 1916-date

Certification record of persons who took civil service examinations, 1898?-date

Applications, resignations, examination papers, etc., all of recent date

